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c. 1968/02/01

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TO: MR McCAFFERT, WH

FROM: PAUL KEARNEY OCJCS

[redacted]

FM GEN WESTMORELAND, COMUSMACV

TO GEN WHEELER CJCS

INFO AMB BUNKER

ADM SHARP, CINCPAC

SANITIZED
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[redacted] MAC 01487 EYES ONLY

I ASSESS THE ENEMY SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:

THE ENEMY CONDUCTED SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS AGAINST MAJOR CITIES AND AIR FACILITIES SOUTH OF THE DMZ AREA DURING THE TET HOLIDAYS. HIS AIM APPEARS TO BE TO CAUSE MOVEMENT OF FRIENDLY UNITS AND TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM WHAT I BELIEVE WILL BE HIS MAIN EFFORT, THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA. CERTAINLY, HE HOPED TO SECURE AND HOLD A MAJOR CITY AT LEAST FOR AWHILE. HE SOUGHT ALSO TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON THE SVN (AND PROBABLY THE US) POPULACE. HIS AIRFIELD ATTACKS WERE AIMED AT THE DESTRUCTION OF SOME PORTION OF OUR AIR CAPABILITY TO PREVENT ITS USE AGAINST HIM WHEN HE LAUNCHES HIS MAJOR EFFORT. HIS RESULTS WERE PYRRHIC, SINCE ENEMY BODY COUNT FOR THE TET HOLIDAY PERIOD WILL PROBABLY EXCEED 5,000.

MEANWHILE, THE ENEMY REMAINS QUIESCENT IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA, INDICATING HE MAY BE WAITING TO ASSESS FRIENDLY REACTION TO HIS ATTACKS FARTHER SOUTH. IT IS TOO EARLY TO ESTIMATE THE EFFECT

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[redacted]

FRIENDLY AIR AND ARTILLERY HAS HAD ON THE ENEMY. CERTAINLY THE AIR ATTACK ON HIS MAJOR HQS LOCATED WEST OF THE DMZ DISRUPTED ENEMY CONTROL FOR PROBABLY SEVERAL DAYS.

IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA, THE ENEMY IS CAPABLE OF ATTACKING AT ANY TIME. [redacted] IS DEPLOYED JUST NORTH OF CAMP CARROLL. [redacted] ARE PLANNING COUNTER BATTERY FIRE, PROBABLY [redacted] THOUGH NOT FULLY COMBAT EFFECTIVE, [redacted] CONTINUE TO POSE A THREAT IN THE CON THIEN AREA, PROBABLY AS A DIVERSION TO THE KHE SANH EFFORT.

IN SUMMARY, THE ENEMY IS CAPABLE OF ATTACKING IN THE KHE SANH/DMZ AREA AT ANY TIME WITH UP TO FOUR DIVISIONS. THOUGH FRIENDLY AIR AND ARTILLERY OPERATIONS ARE CAUSING HIM DIFFICULTIES, I BELIEVE THAT THE ENEMY WILL COMMENCE HIS MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AT THIS TIME INDICATIONS POINT TO KHE SANH COMBAT BASE AS HIS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.

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